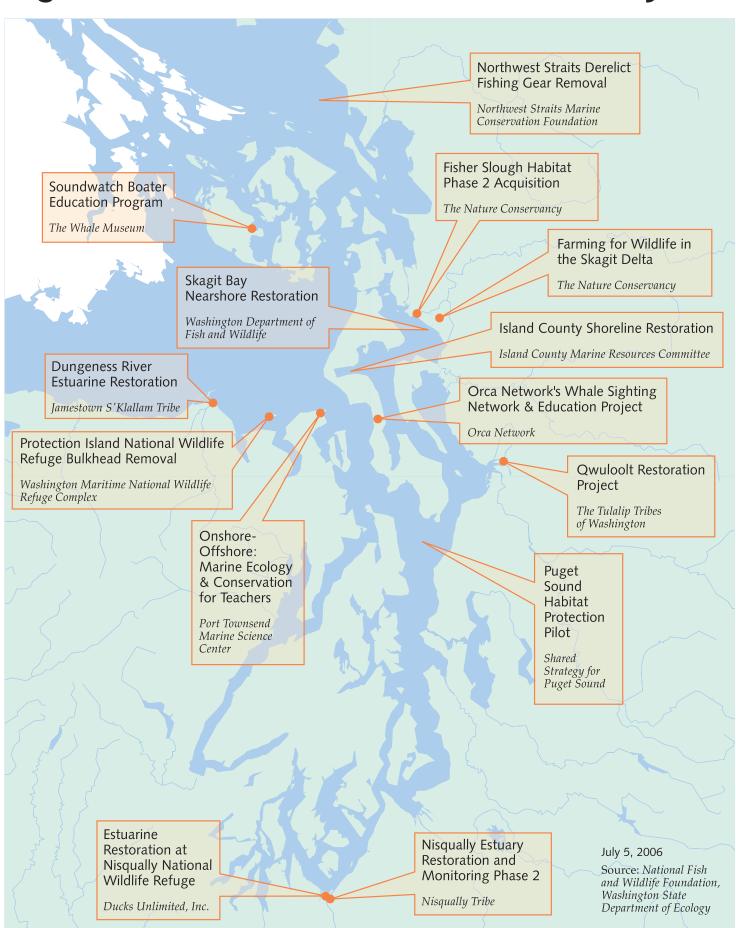
Title	Organization	Grant Funding	Match	Summary
Orca Network's Whale Sighting Network & Education Project	Orca Network Contact: Susan Berta 360-678-3451	\$18,750	\$21,500	Expand the Whale Sighting Network and public education about endangered southern resident orcas and other whales and provide opportunities for volunteers to participate in gathering data on whales along the Washington coast. Data gathered through the network is utilized by organizations and agencies such as Center for Whale Research, the Whale Museum, NOAA Fisheries, University of Washington, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Puget Sound Action Team, among others. Orca Network will increase participation in their monitoring program through several varied methods of advertising and producing and distributing information. Southern resident orcas are federal and state listed endangered species. PCB contamination, habitat loss, and resource depletion are attributed to the population decline.
Soundwatch Boater Education Program	The Whale Museum Contact: Kari Koski 360-378-4710 x33	\$20,000	\$100,170	Implement the Soundwatch Boater Education Program to promote responsible stewardship of the Salish Sea through the development, distribution, implementation, evaluation, and adjustment of best practice guidelines for marine wildlife viewing by residents, visitors, and commercial users. The program objective is to reduce vessel disturbance to killer whales in the Haro Strait region by educating boaters on marine wildlife viewing practices, developing and evaluating voluntary guidelines, and monitoring vessel activities. The program will reach recreational boaters through workshops, training presentations, and printed guidelines. Project partners include the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and San Juan County Marine Resources Committee.
Fisher Slough Habitat Phase 2 Acquisition	The Nature Conservancy Contact: Roger Fuller 360-419-0175	\$88,700	\$10,000	Acquire approximately 15 acres of diked farmland in Fisher Slough in the Skagit Delta for the purpose of restoring riverine tidal/blind tidal channel and wetland habitat. Following acquisition, tidal riverine habitat will be restored by setting dikes back, restoring connectivity with the historic alluvial fan, and providing space for the creek and slough to meander naturally in response to hydrogeomorphic processes. The restored channel and riverine tidal wetland habitat will benefit chinook and coho salmon, as well as prey species for bald eagles which roost near Fisher Slough. Project partners include the Skagit River System Cooperative (tribal consortium), Skagit County, Skagit Watershed Council, Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group, and Skagit Conservation District.
Puget Sound Comprehensive Habitat Protection Pilot	Shared Strategy for Puget Sound Contact: Carol Macilroy 206-447-7626	\$125,000	\$410,000	Identify regulatory, voluntary, incentive, and educational tools to develop a community-based ecosystem management plan to protect ecosystem functions for orca and salmon. This project will convene a group of decision-makers, community members, and key stakeholders in order to develop prioritized actions on areas in need of protection. In addition, this group will assess and evaluate existing protection programs in order to verify effectiveness. A task force of citizens, stakeholders, and scientists will be convened by the group of policy-makers in order to form new solutions for ineffective protection programs. These solutions will be assessed by a technical team of scientists who will review their overall ecological objectives and ensure that the solutions can be implemented. The San Juan County archipelago provides habitat for eelgrass, orcas, herring, salmon, and waterfowl. Partners contributing to this project include local conservation districts, Regional Fisheries Enhancement Groups, Puget Sound Tribes, local business representatives, farmers, foresters, and citizens.

Puget Sound Marine Conservation Fund Projects



Puget Sound Marine Conservation Fund Projects
Fourteen projects totaling \$1.7 million plus \$1.3 million in local match.
Made possible by federal prosecution of illegal shipping pollution discharges.

Title	Organization	Grant Funding	Match	Summary
Nisqually Estuary Restoration and Monitoring Phase 2	Nisqually Indian Tribe Contact: Jeanette Dorner 360-438-8687 x2135	\$144,962	\$115,911	Restore salt marsh and other intertidal habitat on approximately 100 acres of diked pasture in the Nisqually Delta by removing over 4,000 linear feet of dikes and fill the associated ditches to ensure undirected tidal flow to the land. Species that will benefit from restoration of the Nisqually estuary include chinook salmon, steelhead, and bull trout. Restoration of the estuary is the highest priority habitat action listed in the Nisqually chapter of the draft Shared Strategy Puget Sound Salmon Recovery plan, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has identified restoration of estuary habitat in the delta as an important action to implement the Comprehensive Conservation Plan for the Nisqually Wildlife Refuge. Refuge staff and the Nisqually Reach Nature Center will assist in fish, invertebrate and bird monitoring.
Estuarine Restoration at Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge	Ducks Unlimited, Inc. Contact: Daniel Golner 360-885-2011 x17	\$200,000	\$200,000	Finalize the design, obtain permits, and initiate on-the-ground activities for a 700-acre estuarine restoration project at the Nisqually NWR. The project will result in 700 acres of estuarine habitat with full tidal connection to Puget Sound, 263 acres of restored or enhanced freshwater habitat, and 38 acres of improved riverine and riparian habitat. The project will benefit migratory birds that use the NWR for staging, sanctuary, and a migration stop over, and the Nisqually Delta provides critical rearing and migration habitat for many salmonid species, including the federally threatened chinook. Restoration of the Nisqually estuary is ranked as the highest priority habitat action in the 2003 Nisqually Chinook Recovery Plan and the Shared Strategy Draft Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Plan.
Protection Island National Wildlife Refuge Bulkhead Removal	Washington Maritime National Wildlife Refuge Complex Contact: Pamela Sanguinetti 360-457-8451	\$26,600	\$2,200	Remove a creosote lumber bulkhead and restore the native shoreline on Protection Island National Wildlife Refuge, which is the most significant seabird and marine mammal breeding location within Puget Sound and the Strait of Juan de Fuca. The project will protect sensitive breeding seabirds from contaminants and provide additional nesting habitat for pigeon guillemot, rhinoceros auklet, black oystercatcher, and glaucous-winged gull. The Northwest Straits Commission and Washington Department of Natural Resources have identified creosote removal from beaches as a high priority. Information about the negative impacts to marine wildlife from creosote structures and bulkheading will be disseminated to the public through the Port Townsend Marine Science Center's education programs.
Onshore- Offshore: Marine Ecology & Conservation for Teachers	Port Townsend Marine Science Center Contact: Anne Murphy 360-385-5582 x102	\$16,412	\$8,551	Provide a teacher training program for K-12 teachers in Puget Sound and Straits area school systems to incorporate marine ecology and conservation into their curricula at multiple grade levels. The training program will focus on the Protection Island NWR and marine wildlife. Objectives of the program are to educate teachers regarding the role of the NWR in protecting wildlife and habitat, the Puget Sound and Straits marine ecosystem, and marine resources issues in order for teachers to acquire new activities, curricula and resources for teaching marine science and conservation biology.
Dungeness River Estuarine Restoration	Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe Contact: Byron Rot 360-681-4615	\$68,000	\$17,100	Remove tidal barriers and restore approximately 20 acres of salt marsh habitat at the freshwater/tidal interface of the Dungeness River. Four saltwater dikes totaling approximately 2,000 linear feet inhibit saltwater exchange and penetration of the Dungeness River estuarine area. The project will evaluate several alternatives to increase tidal flux, from full removal to partial openings of the dikes, and will implement the most appropriate option in order to restore tidal channel habitat and saltwater inundation on the project area. The Dungeness River estuary and associated coastal wetlands provide habitat for several protected species, including chinook, summer chum, steelhead, bull trout, marbled murrelet, peregrine falcon, and Taylor's checkerspot butterfly. Technical partners contributing to project planning and design include Clallam County, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, U.S. Forest Service, Clallam Conservation District, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Title	Organization	Grant Funding	Match	Summary
Northwest Straits Derelict Fishing Gear Removal	Northwest Straits Marine Conservation Foundation	\$220,000	\$158,000	Remove derelict fishing gear in the Northwest Straits to restore habitat and reduce current and future mortality of seabirds, seaducks, marine mammals, salmon, bottomfish, crab, and other marine species. The project will restore at least 65 acres of habitat and will occur at 13 locations of 100-foot water depth or less where entanglement and mortality are most likely to occur. Based on records of gear removal rates, it is anticipated that the equivalent of 2-3 full-sized nets or 30 crab pots will be removed per day, for a total of 85 days for the project. NSMCF will document pre-removal impacts and monitor post-removal recovery to provide information on the costs and benefits of derelict gear removal, and this information will be disseminated through public meetings, media coverage, and fact sheets.
Farming for Wildlife in the Skagit Delta	The Nature Conservancy Contact: Kevin Morse 360-419-0131	\$110,750	\$28,000	Work with Washington State University and local farmers to develop an experimental approach to creating shorebird habitat on farmland using alternative crop management and altered hydrology on two farms totaling approximately 200 acres in the Skagit Delta. TNC will implement a monitoring program to evaluate habitat improvements, shorebird use, and soil impacts in response to prescribed treatments that include vegetation rotations, sporadic flooding, sod planting/tillage/mowing, and grazing in an effort to produce optimal colonization of invertebrates in soils and provide shorebird feeding habitat. The project will result in a replicable planting and maintenance model that can be used by other farmers in the Skagit Delta. The project is part of a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Targeted Watershed Grant, and information and results of the project will be sent to Washington State University, Washington Department of Agriculture, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Audubon Society, and other conservation organizations for dissemination to their members and staff.
Skagit Bay Nearshore Restoration	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Contact: David Heimer 253-759-7165	\$237,356	\$129,531	Preserve high quality native marsh by controlling invasive cordgrass and will restore approximately 200 acres of previously controlled cordgrass meadows to return ecological function to the area. Cordgrass poses a threat to the ecology of Skagit Bay by out-competing native plants and creating monotypic meadows that negatively impacts many nearshore organisms, including salmonids, waterfowl and shorebirds, and native plants. Cordgrass has been declared to be an economic and environmental threat by the legislature of the State of Washington, included in the 2001 Washington State Aquatic Nuisance Species Management Plan, and recognized as a threat to salmon habitat in the 2000 Salmon Limiting Factors Water Resource Inventory Area 6, which includes the project area. The project area has been identified as a priority in Washington's Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy and North Pacific Coast Region Shorebird Management Plan. Project partners include Western Washington University, Skagit River System Cooperative, and the Nature Conservancy.
Island County Shoreline Restoration	Island County Marine Resources Committee Contact: Gary Wood 360-678-6488	\$175,000	\$40,000	Remove concrete, derelict bulkheads, and pilings from coastal sites in Island County to conserve and restore the shoreline and nearshore habitat. The project will undertake restoration projects identified through previous Washington State Salmon Recovery Funding Board evaluations as potential conservation sites and restoration opportunities that include public and private property locations. Shoreline habitats in Island County provide crucial foraging and refuge areas that act as sanctuaries from potential predators and sustains food sources for salmon and birds. The shoreline habitats are used by Pacific herring, Pacific sand lance, and surf smelt for their reproductive activities.
Qwuloolt Restoration Project	The Tulalip Tribes of Washington Contact: Kurt Nelson 360-651-4485	\$246,314	\$35,782	Restore tidal processes and a functioning estuary ecosystem to 365 acres of isolated estuary floodplain by removing tide gates and constructing levees behind the restored estuary. The project includes restoring fish access to two stream systems by removing four tide gates, and restoring estuary and side channel habitat and function by enhancing stream habitat conditions and planting native vegetation. The estuary provides feeding and rearing habitat for eight species of salmon, including chinook and steelhead, as well as migratory and resident shorebirds, waterfowl, estuarine-dependent wildlife, and native plants. Project partners include the Washington Department of Ecology, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, City of Marysville, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and Stilly Snohomish Fisheries Enhancement Task Force.